Amendments to the Seeds Act

1717. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need of amendments in Seeds Act, 2000;

(b) whether Government propose to streamline the production of seeds as also its export, import and sales;and

(c) whether Government propose to ensure setting up of Seeds Boards at State-level also and linking them up with the National Seeds Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The draft Seeds Bill encompasses, *inter alia*, arrangements for the streamlined production, sale, import and export of seeds and the establishment of the National Seeds Board and State Seed Committees.

Recommendations of Committee to make SAU's farmer friendly

1718. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee, appointed to make the State Agriculture Universities (SAUs) more farmer-friendly and market-oriented, has given its report;

(b) if so, what are its recommendations;

(c) whether the ban on opening of new SAUs, creations of new facilities and levy of one per cent cess by State Governments on agriculture produce etc. as recommended by the committee would not adversely affect the activities of SAUs; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures are being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. No Committee has been constituted by the ICAR to make the State Agriculture Universities (SAU) more farmer friendly and market-oriented.